



Deputy Speaker

**Earlene
HOOPER**

Assemblywoman, 18th Assembly District



Summer 2016

Message to the People

As we approach the end of the 2016 legislative session, I am satisfied that this has been a successful session.

*I have reported to you previously, that this session preserved the enactment of paid **Family Leave**, **minimum wage**, the elimination of **GEA** for all school districts in the 18th assembly district, an historical increase in **school aid**, **tax relief** for our over-burdened tax-payers, \$300 million to protect our water. These are a few monumental achievements for the 2016 session.*

In addition, as we return to our districts for the remainder of the calendar-year, it is imperative that we (all residents and tax-payers) must remain vigilant to ensure that our collective hard work continues to provide positive results.

Enjoy your summer.

Earlene Hooper
Deputy Speaker, 18th Assembly District



Freeport Armory Situated on a Wetland

**Was \$17 million awarded to
Freeport from FEMA for sandy mitigation?**

**Safe water is a priority...
waterfront luxury apartments are not.**

The Freeport Armory is located on a wetland which is a haven for swans, Canada geese, heron, other species of wild life (and formerly fresh-water fish) which are in danger.

The Village of Freeport wants to place the village DPW on this site, which sits on an incline where water-run-off from dpw trucks would flow into the canal and the body of water leading to the main area of the village, causing our drinking-water to be contaminated.

Cleaning products contain the chemical **TRICLOSAN** which is associated with causing serious, negative health issues. Even water-treatment plants **can not** remove this antimicrobial agent which gets into waterways and is known to be highly toxic to aquatic life and algae. The washing of dpw vehicles is the perfect conduit for the emission of Triclosan into our water

Plant-life, once in abundance, stands in greater jeopardy. But, the most serious and frightful issue is our fresh-water supply. In Nassau County, some school districts are addressing the problem of contaminated water (lead) for students, as well as any person exposed to their water.

Our environment is being challenged to the extent that we cannot sit and wait to see if the Village of Freeport makes headlines because chemicals or other substances from industrial vehicles or any other sources poison our water.

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New Legislation

I have introduced three new pieces of legislation:

Assembly Bill A.10211 – *It is critically important that the people of the State of New York are not underinsured or overburdened with additional premiums to keep necessary services and benefits. This bill will amend the insurance law, to prohibit health insurers from removing covered services and benefits which are already covered and a part of your current premium.*

Assembly Bill A.10212 – *In an effort to eliminate eye-sores in the community and/or financial burdens on property owners, this bill amends the public services law to require any utility company to repair and restore any roadway to its original condition that it disturbs or destroys while completing to maintain its particular service.*

Assembly Bill A.10213 – *To ensure that owners, financial institutions or their property management organizations, maintain residential or commercial properties adequately until such properties are sold to a new purchaser or while inhabited by the owner. This bill should assist a municipality to collect fines and encourage managers/owners of properties to adequately maintain them. The financial institution/managers or owners would be warned of the fines assessed against their properties.*

Freeport Armory Situated on a Wetland *(continued from page 1)*

The armory can serve the public if we offer legislation that provides a police station, a place for veterans to meet and for other community activities, instead of questionable water. This wetland can be saved and restored for purposes that enhance our well-being through education, recreation and simultaneously, save the environment.

Clean, safe water is not an option for any of us. Luxury water-front apartments should not be a choice that our children, residents, visitors, etc., have to make over clean water.

The mayor of Freeport has said that the sandy storm damage at the current public dpw work-site, “suffered five million dollars (\$5 million) worth of damage.” The Deputy Speaker has already provided two million dollars (\$2 million) for the sole purpose of mitigating storm-sandy damage and has requested the governor to assist with additional funds. Also, it is on public record that Freeport Village received seventeen million dollars (\$17 million) from FEMA to address sandy storm damage in the village. Some of those funds could have/should have been used for the dpw site.

We cannot place an industrial facility (dpw/waste-transfer station) on this site. Currently, the dpw vehicles “temporarily” located at the facility and transverse the site, are a safety hazard to the children who attend the near-by day/summer camps. It has been reported that these youth have to navigate between these huge vehicles as they attempt to access their destinations.

The Nature Conservancy of New York has applauded the three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000) in the 2016 state budget for the Environmental Protection Fund and states, “this unprecedented investment establishes New York as a national environmental leader.... for ‘protecting and’ improving clean water.”

“... New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) has concluded that this site is not conducive.... for dpw ...vehicles.” The location, in itself, pursuant to DOT’s position, would be an obstacle for emergency response in a residential, tree-lined, electrical and telephone-wired area, with no alternate artery. This being the case, it appears Deputy Speaker Hooper’s plan “is a sustainable use of the property.”

Letter to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo from
Edward P. Mangano, Nassau County Executive
Dated June 10, 2014

“A big part of the dangers in our environment is pollution...chemicals and other hazardous substances... into our water supply.....”

Letter to the Deputy Speaker from a Freeport Resident

The Nassau County Veteran Service Agency has expressed their support to the Deputy Speaker on behalf of the veterans to have access to this building as they are committed to helping veterans enjoy a better quality of life.

“... It is easy to take public water supply for granted ... people could live the least amount of time without it.” The Long Island Water Conference advocates for many water purveyors and other industry professionals who supply potable water to over ninety percent (90%) of the Nassau Suffolk area. Their conference will be addressing these issues in the near future.

All people are entitled to safe drinking water. The people of Freeport deserve no less.



Deputy Speaker Hooper listens to Basil Seggos, NYS Commissioner of Environmental Conservation during his visit to the wetlands at the Freeport Armory.

Around the District



Dr. Bishop E. Phillip Elliott, Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, Hempstead and Deputy Speaker Hooper sitting at the Deputy Speaker's seat after the Bishop gave the session prayer.

Carl Heastie, Speaker; Rev. Patrick L. Daymond, Pastor, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Roosevelt and Earlene Hooper, Deputy Speaker after Rev. Daymond gave the session prayer.



Deputy Speaker Hooper is surrounded by students at Pat-Kam Early School and Early Childhood Center. Standing: L to R: Teacher, Geraldine Clahar, CPA and Ron Clahar, Director.

Tax Relief for Small Businesses

A.10139 has been introduced in the assembly to assist small businesses realize tax relief

Small businesses employ over a half million of the state's private workforce. They make up 99.0 percent of all employers in the state. Small businesses created 154,264 new jobs in 2012. The greatest gain was in firms with 1-4 employees. This legislation will address this growth as we attempt to rebuild our economy.

This legislation supports citizens whose incredible contributions to New York State provide jobs and taxpayers who alleviate a portion of the state tax burden on businesses.



**Earlene
HOOPER**

Deputy Speaker

Assemblywoman, 18th A.D.

Message to the People

Summer 2016

Deputy Speaker Hooper Supports Veterans

Legislation Expands Access to Pension Benefits for all Veterans

Memorial Day is the time our nation pauses to acknowledge the sacrifice our veterans give to us. There is little we can do to compare to what they have done and/or shall do.

So, in honor of our Veterans (and military service men and women), legislation has passed in the Assembly (A.9531) that will allow **ALL** Veterans who work in public service, a minimum of five (5) years, to purchase up to three (3) years of pension credit for time served in the military, regardless of how they served. For those who have protected us and our freedom, this is just that all veterans have equitable access to pensions.